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Board meets third Friday of each month, at 1863 Notre Dame Street.

P. M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1900

MUSIC IN SCHOOLS IN IRELAND

The Executive Committee of the Feis Ceoil, met at 19 Lincoln place, Dublin, a week ago. Mr. John Mulcolm, Belfast, presided. Also present—Miss P. W. Elmer, Rev. George O'Neill, S.J., Messrs. C. J. McCarthy, C.E.; C. H. Oldham, Henry Dixon, Walter Bapty, Brendan J. Rogers, D. J. O'Donoghue, George Sigerson, M.D., F.R.U.L.; Robert Dwyer, J. O. Lindsay, R. J. Best, Miss Edith Oldham, and George Coffey, B.L., hon. sec.; and J. F. Curtis, assistant secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed. The Chairman made a statement regarding the progress of the arrangement of details in connection with the coming festival.

Mr. Brennan J. Rogers then read his report on the teaching of music in schools, in Ireland, in the course of which he said—"In accordance with your request, I furnish you with the following memorandum on the subject of music in the primary stage of education in Ireland. Under the system of National Education music is taught in the training colleges where the young masters are prepared for teaching throughout the country. In these colleges they receive one or two years' free training and maintenance at the public expense. They are their power of teaching the subjects they have been engaged in, and certified as to their power of teaching the subjects they have passed in. Music is obligatory on all such students as are capable of learning it, to teach it afterwards in the schools. In the National schools music is taught by these trained masters where it is taught at all, but it will, no doubt, cause much surprise when it is known that but an infinitesimal number out of the total number of National schools in the country teach music as a subject for examination at their yearly inspection. This is somewhat surprising, considering that result fees are to be had for success in this subject as well as in the others, and that it must be a great relief to both teachers and pupils to vary the day's work by singing.

On this subject he adduced the figures which the Commission on Manual and Practical Instruction formulated in their valuable and exhaustive report. Comparing the work done in Ireland with that accomplished in England and Scotland I find that the percentage of the schools where singing is taught was 99.54 in England and Scotland, and only 14.48 in Ireland. "In considering these figures," says this report, "it must be borne in mind that in both England and Scotland the grant for singing, reduced, however by one half, may be earned by a school in which singing is taught, not by note, but by ear." A certificate of competence is not required in England or Scotland on the part of the teacher, though it is in Ireland, where singing by ear is not recognized at all. He then quoted figures to show that the freedom from restrictions which English and Scotch teachers have enjoyed has done great things for music in those countries, while these restrictions enforced in Ireland, along with other defects in our system, are responsible for the miserable 14 per cent. of the total number in which music is taught. The report adds—"The detailed statistics published in the annual report of the English and Scotch Educational Departments make it plain that the present widespread extension of singing in the elementary schools of England and Scotland has come about through a gradual process of transition from singing by ear to singing by note." Thus in England, where in the twelve years from 1883 to 1896, there has been an increase of 14,082 in the number of schools in which singing has been taught by note, there has

been within the same period the almost identical increase of 13,905 in the number of schools in which the Tonic Sol-fa method is followed. In Ireland we have no such percentage of schools in which music is taught, no such increase in any department of musical progress, no transition from ear method or any other method to the only true method—viz., singing by note; and in this state of stagnation in the study and practice of vocal music we find the cause of the almost universal absence of musical education among our people.

Singing by note should be the basis of all musical training, and yet in the schools of the people under the management of the National Board only 14 per cent. of the whole teach singing. This state of music in our schools, including the Intermediate, is in a much worse condition than in the primary schools, and it extends its influence much further than merely to singing. Instrumental music, the taste and ear for which is first and best formed by correct singing in school classes, is in just as bad a condition as vocal music. It cannot be said to flourish to any great extent in Ireland except in the big cities. In Dublin particularly, as well as in Belfast and Cork, this branch of musical accomplishment is fairly general and good among the educated classes. In such towns as Limerick, Waterford, and Derry, instrumental music is in a backward condition, but has improved somewhat, and is still progressing. The attitude of the people, however, is abundantly shown by the contests which have already taken place under your auspices in the Feis Ceoil contests, which gave most admirable results in orchestral, brass and reed, and brass bands. These results give rise to, and must enhance the regret which the great scarcity of such bands occasion. There are, no doubt, a number of bands scattered over the country, but they are so incomplete, so untrained, so discordant, so wretchedly inartistic in their performances that they cannot be said to rank or even to qualify to rank with the fine trade bands of Cork, Dublin, or Belfast. In conclusion, he submitted that some very radical improvement was necessary in the number of schools teaching singing.

On the motion of Dr. Sigerson, seconded by the Rev. George O'Neill, S.J., the report was unanimously adopted.

IRISH COLONISTS.

Although not directly referring to Canada, still what the Hon. T. J. Gorgan says about Irish colonists in America, can easily find application here. He argues that there were many Irish colonists other than those bearing distinctively Irish names. In the course of his admirable paper on this subject, he said:—

"Recent investigations have shown that in addition to the large number of immigrants bearing distinctively Irish names during the eighteenth century, a large number were compelled by law to assume other names. One of the acts passed in the eighteenth century by the British Parliament provided that Irishmen dwelling in certain countries, go appurtenant like Englishmen and wear their beards after the English fashion, swear allegiance and take English surnames; which surnames shall be of one town as Sutton, Chester, Trim, Skryne, Corke, Kinsale; or colors, as White, Brown, Black; or arts and sciences, as Smith, or Carpenter; or office, as Cooke, Butler, etc., and it is provided that he and his heirs shall use this name under pain of forfeiting of his goods yearly, etc.

"No vessel was allowed during the eighteenth century to sail directly from Ireland. Vessels did not begin their voyage until they had reached some English port. Thus we see that nearly all the Irish who came to the colonies from the English ports, and they came in large numbers during the reign of Charles I, and Cromwell, did not bear distinctively Irish names.

"One would think, to hear much of the superficial talk and to read much of the superficial gush that is palmed off as history, that the Irish had no part in the settlement of New England. Yet we find in 1634 the general court of Massachusetts granted lands on the Merrimack River for an Irish settlement, and there were several hundred Irishmen in King Philip's War whose names are still preserved in the colonial records.

"We know that the Puritan fathers were somewhat intolerant of Catholics, yet they did tolerate 'the fighting Irish,' as they were called, giving little thought to their religious belief so long as they remained on the frontier to fight the Indians.

Catholic parents, were sent to the West Indies, Virginia and New England, that they might lose their faith as well as the knowledge of their nationality.

"In 1653 a contract was made by one Capt. Vernon, with Mr. David Selleck and Mr. Ledor, to supply them with 250 women of the Irish nation above twelve and under forty-five years of age, and 300 men above twelve and under fifty-five years of age, to be found in the country within twenty miles of Cork, to be transported into New England and sold in New England at a profit to the English commission. Many girls of gentle birth were imprisoned and sold by these man catchers. This shocking evil at last attracted attention when they began to seize the daughters and children of English parents living in Ireland.

"Thomas Addis Emmett, of New York, a member of our society, who has collected many of these facts, writes that 'these young Irish women must have all been eventually transported into Irish Puritans.' If so, Mr. Emmett adds, their property must in time have given quite a Hibernian tint to the blue blood of the descendants of the May-flower."

WAIL OF THE UNAPPRECIATED.

It is astonishing how many women there are who are made absolutely miserable by their belief that they are not appreciated according to their deserts. Every day I become more and more convinced that the tendency to encourage this line of thought is growing to be one of the most serious obstacles to the growth of human happiness. It is a foe that should be promptly met and recognized and earnestly fought.

The belief that you yourself are not properly appreciated is anything but a matter of ridicule to you. If you are inclined to be philosophical, you keep it to yourself, realizing that little is gained by making any grievance public property. You may perhaps mention it to a trusted friend, who promptly extends sympathy, thus confirming you in your belief. You think you feel a little better, but the fact is more harm than good has been done, for the very act of putting your trouble into words has brought it from the realms of the intangible, whence it had visited you only occasionally, to the realm of the tangible, where it has become ever present. Unless very vigorous methods are pursued, you will henceforth think of yourself as unappreciated, and the consequent dissatisfaction with your surroundings will increase daily. Every day you will become less and less competent to see things just as they are because a peculiar progressive blindness always accompanies the discontent that comes to those who do not believe themselves to be properly appreciated.

This blindness does not trouble you when you study another person similarly affected. Among your acquaintances the majority believe that they are not justly appreciated, and, with the exception of the one or two with whom you are in sympathy, you

cannot see that they have anything of which to complain. In most cases you are inclined to laugh at their pretensions, for it is very plain to you that they really receive as much as they deserve. You have grounds for your belief, for the majority of your friends think just as you do about it. Now, if you would only stop to consider that the majority of your friends cannot see that you have just cause for complaint you would have the key to the methods which must be employed in order to kill this enemy to your happiness.

The fact is they who most deserve appreciation never stop to think anything about it. They are too busy berating themselves because they accomplish so little. They set their standards so high that they never feel satisfied with the progress they make, and if they chance to receive commendation they can scarce believe in its sincerity, for they cannot see how the world can praise what they themselves consider almost failure.

The unhappy people who are never rightfully appreciated should try to remember that it is difficult to estimate an individual according to his intentions, and that it is seldom that any of us succeed in doing quite as well as we meant to. In that as much as in intentional neglect may lie the cause of the inappreciation of our friends. It should also be remembered that only constant progression really merits praise. Every good deed must be used as a stepping stone to something better, else we shall surely be left behind and forgotten, and we should deserve it. Where there is so much to be done but little time can be spent in praising that which has already been accomplished. When in a complaining mood, it would be well to consider just what we have done for which we have not received due commendation and whether if another had done it we, too, should not have forgotten all about it by this time.

It would surprise you if you could know how many people there are in this world who honestly believe themselves fitted for a higher station in life than that which they occupy and who complain of their friends and family because they, too, do not adore what has never been made manifest. We are all such heroes and heroines—in our own estimation! When I know I am fitted to be a princess, it is hard to spend my time in washing dishes, more especially in washing dishes for people who won't see that I am a rather ordinary housekeeper! Trouble is bound to come unless I change my opinion of myself or exalt my surroundings to correspond. These people who never succeed in getting into their kingdoms are very pitiable and very ridiculous, as a rule, for, instead of being fitted for the better position they fondly imagine themselves to be, they are usually fitted for none at all. They cannot be made to comprehend the fact that no one ever remains long in a position which he has really outgrown. He is freed out of it as surely as the healthy chicken finds its way out from the shell.

There is another side to the question that is quite apt to be over-

looked by those who have enlisted in the great army of the unappreciated. It is this: We really receive more commendations than we are aware of, because it often comes from unexpected sources or in unexpected ways. Only the other day I talked with a woman who complains that her husband does not appreciate her, yet it is very apparent to all who know them that he really rates her far above her just deserts. The trouble is that he does not express his appreciation in just the terms that appeal to her imagination, and she is too determined to be abused to look for his approval under any other guise. Again, the person who fails to appreciate what is really good loses so much in life that he deserves our pity more than our censure, and we are foolish when we attach undue importance to his opinions. There is danger in this philosophy, I admit, for it is apt to lead to further self glorification on the part of those who are already overburdened with self esteem, but if there are any poor little women who deserve much and get nothing it may help them to look at the matter from a more heroic point of view, and to keep on climbing until they have reached a point where the joys of achieving shall drive away all thought of anything so ephemeral as the appreciation of any mortal.

Don't waste time in trying to discover whether or not you are appreciated, for as sure as you do you will find something to worry you. Build your house on the solid rock of achievement, keep a clear and sensitive conscience, work to accomplish instead of to win praise, and you will soon outgrow your desire for commendation. Then you will be happy and useful, and the world will know it.—Home Journal and News.

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(Continued from page 9.)

IRISH RELIGIOUS ITEMS.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS. — A resolution has been passed by the Committee of Clerical Managers of National Schools in the Diocese of Elphin—representing 300 managers—expressing astonishment at the contemplated abolition of the "results system" in National Schools, and expressing the opinion that such a change would have a most injurious effect on the efficacy of National Schools and on primary education in Ireland.

A REPUDIATION. — The Central Executive of the Teachers' Association have passed resolutions disclaiming any hostility to the interests of religion, and pointing out that the members of the present committee are not responsible "for the memorial whose unfortunate wording reflecting unjustly on the great majority of managers who exercised their unlimited power of dismissal with a forbearance reflecting on them the highest credit." The committee repudiates "certain publications in a paper read by teachers"—but the memorial has not yet been apologised for.

EVICTED TENANTS' FUND. — Mr. George H. Russell, hon. secretary of the Evicted Tenants' Restoration Fund, acknowledges the receipt of over £500, including £300 received by His Eminence Cardinal Logue from County Wexford; £20 from His Eminence; £5 from the Bishop of Clonfert; \$10 from "A Landlord"; £50 from Mr. Horace Plunkett; two guineas from Mr. E. C. French, Alfreton, Derbyshire; and numerous other subscriptions chiefly from Irish priests. There is some talk of restoring the Clanricarde tenants, but the old Marquis is awfully stubborn.

"NO POPERY" TROUBLES.—The "No Popery" cry in Belfast is now raised against the hapless Ritualists. On Sunday night a large crowd collected round the Albert Memorial, the Union Jack and a placard with the legend "No Popery in our Protestant Churches" symbolising the fusion of loyalty with bigotry. A conflict with the police ended in the English flag being captured and borne to the barracks—novel work for the R.I.C., hauling down the Imperial colors.

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